

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057882

EXDIS TOSEC 520

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 3313 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 13 MAR 75

QUTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3313

EXDIS

DEPT PLS RPT TO MINIMIZE POSTS AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO,
DAMASCUS, JIDDA AND KUWAIT AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, SF, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND THE PLO

REF: TOKYO 1884

SUMMARY: TEL AVIV RAID HAS MADE GOJ MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT
MOVES TOWARD PLO, AND SPLIT MAJOR LDP ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING
CLOSER TIES. AT SAME TIME PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITH LINKS
TO LDP LEADERSHIP IS ANXIOUS TO MAKE GESTURE AND MAY DO
SO WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. CURRENT CAUTION ASIDE,
FONOFF STILL THINKS SOME GOJ MOVE TOWARD PLO LIKELY BEFORE
LONG AND HAS EXPRESSED EXPLICIT INTEREST IN US VIEWS ON
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SUBJECT. EMBASSY BELIEVES FURTHER SILENCE ON OUR PART WILL

BE INTERPRETED AS TACIT ACQUIESCENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO FIRST MIDDLE EASTERN DIVISION DIRECTOR WATANABE, TEL AVIV RAID HAS GIVEN MANY IN GOVERNMENT AND LDP SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ANY QUICK MOVE TOWARD PLO. PRIME MINISTER MIKI AND FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA HAVE BECOME VERY CAUTIOUS AS A RESULT. THE JAPAN-ARAB FRIENDSHIP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, WHICH HAD FAVORED RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH PALESTINIANS NOW DIVIDED OVER ISSUE.

2. BY CONTRAST, THE JAPAN ARAB ASSOCIATION, A PRIVATE GROUP HEADED BY BUSEI NAKATANI, IS ANXIOUS TO MOVE WITH OR WITHOUT GOJ APPROVAL. NAKATANI, A FORMER DIET MEMBER WITH PERSONAL TIES BOTH TO MIKI AND MIYAZAWA, HAS BEEN AGGRESSIVELY MAKING ARAB CONTACTS AND CLAIMS TO HAVE MET EGYPTIAN LEADERS AND YASIR ARAFAT. HE HAS BEEN IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE AND BELIEVES THAT HIS FORTUNES WILL CHANGE IF HE DEVELOPS A REPUTATION AS HIGH-LEVEL GO-BETWEEN WITH ARABS. NAKATANI HAS TOLD WATANABE THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, OSTENSIBLY BACK IN CAIRO TO PLAN FOR ARAB WEEK IN TOKYO (EARLY APRIL), IS ARRANGING FOR NAKATANI MEETING WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES. NAKATANI CLAIMS THAT HE HAS MIKI'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INVITE PLO REPRESENTATIVES TO JAPAN. MIKI HAS TOLD FONOFF THAT NAKATANI HAS NOT RECEIVED FORMAL PERMISSION. IN GENERAL, GOJ IS NEUTRAL TOWARD NAKATANI. WATANABE SUSPECTS THAT NAKATANI MAY TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH AND CAUTIONS THAT ANY OF HIS ACTIONS THERE WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT EITHER GOJ APPROVAL OR INSTIGATION.

3. THOUGH TEL AVIV RAID HAS ADDED NOTE OF CAUTION, WATANABE SAID HIS PREVIOUS ANALYSIS OF FORCES COMPELLING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TOWARD SOME SORT OF GEESTURE TOWARD PLO (REFTEL) STILL HOLDS GOOD AND PRESSURE FOR MOVE WILL BUILD AGAIN SOON. IN THE MEANTIME HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING A FRANK AND AUTHORITATIVE READING OF US VIEWS ON JAPANESE POLICY TOWARD PLO. TIMING IS IMPORTANT, WATANABE STRESSED. ANY VIEWS PRESENTED AFTER PLO PRESENCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE CONFIRMED WILL BE TOO LATE TO HAVE ANY EFFECT.

4. COMMENT: THOUGH STRONG GOJ INTEREST IN US REACTION HAS
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ALWAYS BEEN IMPLIED IN THE CARE WITH WHICH EMBASSY BRIEFED ON VIEWS OF PLO, THIS IS FIRST TIME FONOFF HAS EXPLICITLY REQUESTED US VIEWS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FURTHER SILENCE ON OUR PART WILL BE INTERPRETED BY JAPANESE AS TACIT ACQUIESCENCE.
HODGSON UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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